

SECRET

16 July 1967

Supplement 5 to "The Situation in the Congo" (dated 13 July)

1. Kisangani. The evacuation of foreigners from Kisangani has been completed for the time being. Some 30 to 100 Europeans who remain there say they want to stay for at least a few days, but most apparently will want to be evacuated if the situation does not improve. Embassy officers who toured Kisangani yesterday report a ravaged and terror-stricken city. The degree of looting is unprecedented and the food situation is critical. Although these American officers were well received, the Congolese attitude toward foreigners, particularly Belgians, is visibly hostile. Most of the foreigners who sparked the city's comeback after earlier periods of turmoil appear to be leaving for good this time.

2. Bukavu. Plans for evacuation are getting underway in Bukavu which remains tense but still under control. The Bukavu consular corps estimates that some 200 to 250 local Europeans will elect to take advantage of President Mobutu's authorization for European teachers, widows, invalids and children to depart the Congo. With Congolese cooperation evacuees can move by road into neighboring

SECRET

SECRET

Rwanda but it is doubtful that the facilities in Rwanda can accomodate such a volume. Our consul expects that the United States may be called on to assist the evacuation.

3. Mercenaries. The main column of mercenaries has apparently stopped in the Punia area where their leader, Major Schramm, has a plantation. A group of Italians and Belgians being held as hostages have radioed Kigali that their safety depended on getting airplanes to evacuate the mercenaries plus food and medicines.

SECRET

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